

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2017, Fourth Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

August 8, 2017



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 4, SFY 2017

During the final quarter of FY17, the Emergency Assistance (EA) system continued to experience a declining number of families in hotel/motels. The quarter ended with 46 families in hotels/motels compared to 65 during the previous quarter (a 29 percent decrease) and 440 in FY16 Quarter 4 (a 90 percent decrease). Total shelter/hotel caseload showed slight variation from the previous quarter with 34 fewer families in the system (a 1% decrease), while the total caseload was seven percent lower than Quarter 4 FY16.

In FY17 Quarter 4, 2,107 families applied for EA, 12 percent more than the previous quarter (1,866 families) and six percent fewer than FY16 Quarter 4. 929 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 4, two percent more than the previous quarter (911 families) and five percent fewer families than FY16 Quarter 4. Also in FY17 Quarter 4, 252 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. This represented 21 percent of families entering the system.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 370 families in Quarter 4, 40 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield office at 16 percent and the Brockton office at 8 percent.

Fifty-seven percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while domestic violence was the reason for homelessness for 13 percent of families, eviction for 12 percent, and threatened eviction for another 12 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 63 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Twenty-five percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation, and four percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units. Another six percent of families who entered due to a health and safety reason were experiencing problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

During Quarter 4, 903 families exited the EA system. 522 (58 percent) of these families left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

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EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2017 Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	Apr	May	Jun	FY17
Families Applying to EA	2,107	1,866	559	815	794	7,950
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,181	1,143	355	401	425	4,860
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	929	911	277	318	334	3,867
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	79%	80%	78%	79%	79%	80%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	252	232	78	83	91	993
% Entering HomeBASE	21%	20%	22%	21%	21%	20%

Note: Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

Sources: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

EA Health & Safety Assessments

	SFY 2017 Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	Apr	May	Jun	SFY 2017
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	773	707	214	271	288	2,933
Families Determined at Risk	670	605	191	232	247	2,490
% Referrals at Risk	87%	86%	89%	86%	86%	85%
Shelter Diversions	103	102	23	39	41	443
% Referrals Diverted	13%	14%	11%	14%	14%	15%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2017 Quarter 4		Previous Quarter	SFY 2017			SFY 2017 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	929	100%	911	277	318	334	3,867	100%
Boston	370	40%	323	104	129	137	1,511	39%
Brockton	73	8%	81	21	28	24	341	9%
Fall River	5	1%	10	1	3	1	41	1%
Fitchburg	8	1%	10	2	4	2	36	1%
Framingham	5	1%	8	2	0	3	30	1%
Greenfield	11	1%	10	3	5	3	33	1%
Holyoke	0	0%	0	0	0	0	1	<1%
Hyannis	14	2%	20	2	4	8	59	2%
Lawrence	50	5%	51	17	17	16	191	5%
Lowell	10	1%	25	6	4	0	108	3%
Malden	5	1%	6	2	2	1	18	<1%
New Bedford	31	3%	28	11	9	11	123	3%
North Shore/Salem	60	6%	48	19	16	25	193	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	6	1%	1	4	1	1	20	1%
Plymouth	1	<1%	2	0	0	1	6	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	66	7%	63	19	25	22	273	7%
Southbridge	1	<1%	4	0	0	1	9	<1%
Springfield	153	16%	166	46	48	59	648	17%
Taunton	2	<1%	4	1	1	0	7	<1%
Worcester	58	6%	51	17	22	19	219	6%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

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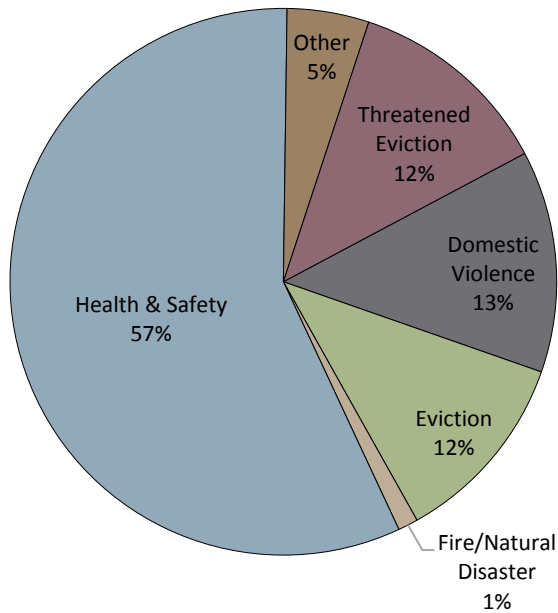
**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter and Hotels/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2017 Quarter 4		Previous Quarter	SFY 2017			SFY 2017 Total	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
Total	929	100%	911	277	318	334	3,867	100%
Domestic Violence	122	13%	120	35	50	37	539	14%
Eviction	107	12%	124	30	39	38	482	12%
Fire/Natural Disaster	11	1%	26	4	3	4	67	2%
Health & Safety	531	57%	500	159	166	206	2,100	54%
Threatened Eviction	45	5%	96	14	17	14	334	9%
Other	113	12%	45	35	43	35	345	9%

Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.

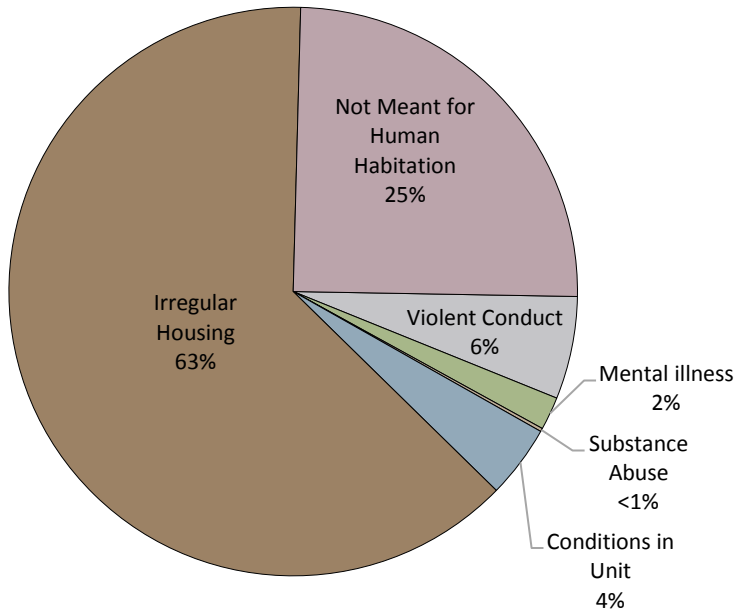
Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.

**Reasons for Homelessness
Quarter 4, SFY 2017**



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**Health & Safety Reasons
Quarter 4, SFY 2017**



Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	Quarter 4	Previous Quarter	SFY 2017			SFY 2017	
			Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% Exits
Total	903	889	294	268	341	3,908	100%
Abandoned	112	105	36	38	38	492	13%
Criminal Activity	3	1	1	0	2	12	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	522	509	168	163	191	2,144	55%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	121	143	46	28	47	587	15%
Ineligible	20	11	6	7	7	75	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	7	4	3	1	3	21	1%
Non-compliance	15	10	7	3	5	87	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	82	81	22	23	37	362	9%
Other/Unknown	21	25	5	5	11	128	3%

Notes:

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 4, SFY 2017	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,499	99%
Hotels/Motels	46	1%
All Families	3,545	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-34	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-1.0%	

Note: Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA During Quarter 4

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	1,742	323
Cost Per Episode	\$130	\$226,460	\$41,990

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$130 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates).
The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA.

HomeBASE Caseload

Type of Assistance	Number of Families
Household Assistance	2,902

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program during June 2016.